

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 /088 W

----- 070947

R 061358Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2549

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0158

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: EMBASSY COMMENTS ON PMAC COMMUNIQUE CONCERNING
ERITREA

REF: (A) FBIS LONDON 51542Z JAN 74 NOTAL;

(B) ADDIS 0063

1. COMPARISON REF FBIS TEXT WITH OFFICIAL ENA RELEASE AVAILABLE
JAN 6 SHOWS TWO TO BE SUBSTANTIVELY IDENTICAL. FBIS VERSION IS
COMPREHENSIVE. WE SHALL POUCH COPY OF OFFICIAL TEXT TO AF/E.

2. ALTHOUGH PROBLEMS CITED REF B REMAIN, WE NOTE THAT IMPUTATION
BY EPMG OF ONUS FOR CURRENT ERITREAN SITUATION TO OLD ORDER SERVES
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TO GIVE CURRENT AUTHORITIES SOME ADDITIONAL ELBOW ROOM. INTERESTING

IN THIS CONTEXT THAT PMAC STATEMENT FOR FIRST TIME OPENLY DISCUSSES INSURGENCY AS SUCH, VIZ. "OPPRESSIVE RULE OF PREVIOUS REGIME HAD BEEN SO HARD, PARTICULARLY IN ERITREA, THAT MANY ERITREANS FORCED TAKE TO ARMED STRUGGLE OR FLEE THE COUNTRY." THIS IS LONG STEP AWAY FROM CUSTOMARY DESCRIPTION OF INSURGENCY AS BANDITRY IN DIRECTION OF REALITY AND THUS HEALTHY SIGN. NOTEWORTHY IN THIS CONTEXT THAT IN REFERENCE TO THIRDDDECLARATION RVOR NEWSCAST MORNING JAN. 6 ALSO LABELED ERITREAN "INSURGENTS" AS SUCH.

3. SOME "PROPOSALS" PUT FORWARD BY ERITREANNOTABLES APPARENTLY ALREADY BEING IMPLEMENTED. FOR EXAMPLE, THINNING OF MILITARY PRESENCE ON ASMARA'S STREETS AND ITS REPLACEMENT BY POLICE (CF. ASMARA'S 0002 NOTAL) POINTS IN THIS DIRECTION. MOREOVER, OTHER PROPOSALS ALSO COUCHED SO AS TO FACILITATE PMAC ACCEPTANCE E.G. RELEASE OF PRISONERS "AS PART OF NATIONWIDE AMNESTY" ALREADY GRANTED (ALTHOUGH EPMG HOLDING LINE ON THOSE CHARGED WITH MURDER OR SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- A LINE WHICH EX-PM ENDELKACHEW MAKONNEN ARTICULATED TO US IN TENNECO 4 CONTEXT EARLY LAST YEAR); SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COOPERATION CAMPAIGNERS TO WHICH EPMG LONG SINCE RESIGNED DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES OBTAINING IN THAT PROVINCE (CF ADDIS 0020 NOTAL AND PREVIOUS); "RESTRAINT" BY SECURITY FORCES WHICH FITS IN NICELY WITH STAND-DOWN WHICH HAS PREVAILED BETWEEN MILITARY AND ELF/PLF FOR SOME TIME - NOT TO SPEAK OF KNOWN RELUCTANCE NEW LOGISTICALLY CONSTRAINED TROOPS TO LEAVE THEIR GARRISONS (ADDIS A-244).
WYMAN

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